

April 8, 2014

Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services – Monthly Updates and Reminders

Dear Authorized Representative/Food Service Director: This information was emailed to the Authorized Representative and the Food Service Director. If you desire additional staff members to receive the monthly emails please send me their contact information and I will add them to the distribution list. Sincerely, Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant.

New Location on web page:

The Monthly Memos and Update - Schools are posted on our web page at <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/quick-links-nutrition>.

SP26-2014 – New Q&As Related to the Certification of Compliance with Meal Requirements for the National School Lunch Program

Attached are Revised Questions and Answers related to the final rule entitled, Certification of Compliance with Meal Requirements for the National School Lunch Program under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. As a result of the publication of the 6 cents final rule on January 3, 2014, (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-01-03/pdf/2013-31433.pdf>), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has received additional questions concerning the certification process. Therefore, USDA created a new set of questions and answers related to 6 cents. These new questions and answers will supersede SP 31-2012 “Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Questions and Answers Related to the Certification of Compliance with Meal Requirements for the National School Lunch Program”.

SP28-2014 – Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2014-15

This memorandum extends through School Year (SY) 2014-15 the availability of an exemption to the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement for certain School Food Authorities (SFAs) in strong financial standing, as described below. SFAs must respond in the affirmative to the 4 questions on page 3 (and listed below) and explain how it will be accomplished. SFAs also need to address the areas identified by USDA "Additional Considerations" on pages 3 and 4 of the memo. SFAs interested in requesting a FY15 PLE Tool exemption may send the request for an exemption and responses to USDA's questions identified in the memo to Patti Harding at patti.harding@iowa.gov.

Meal Standards

1. Is the SFA certified as meeting the updated meal pattern requirements?
2. Is the SFA financially prepared to meet future meal pattern requirements (e.g. future sodium, targets)?

Competitive Foods

3. Is the SFA taking specific steps toward meeting the new Smart Snacks in Schools standards for items sold from the school food service account, and does it have any projected financial considerations associated with these changes?

Administrative Reviews

4. Has the SFA corrected all deficiencies, implemented all corrective actions and complied with any fiscal action identified in the most recent Administrative Review Report?

SP29-2014 – Consolidated Appropriations Act Report Language on Waivers for School Breakfast and Smart Snacks

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) will not be providing waivers for School Breakfast (SBP) and Smart Snacks requirements that go into effect on July 1, 2014. Therefore, SFAs should continue preparing for a timely implementation of both the breakfast changes and Smart Snacks requirement.

REMINDER:

Food Safety Inspection Requirement

Now is the time for SFA's to review the inspections status of each of the sites participating in the School Meal Programs and report them on the CNP2000 system. USDA requires SFAs to report the number of food safety inspection and many SFAs have not reported them yet for school year 2013-2014. **The number of food safety/health inspections that each school/site had must be reported by June 30, 2014, or by the last day of operation for school year 2013-2014.**

If each site has not yet had **two inspections**, it is important that the SFA request from the local inspection authority that two inspections be completed prior to the end of the school year. The SFA cannot control whether or not the two inspections are completed, but must document that the SFA has requested two required inspections.

A copy of a letter or a note placed in a file, indicating a call was made to this person on this date requesting the inspections, would be considered documentation. Copies of either the inspections or the documentation must be on file for the State Agency to review. USDA requires the State Agency to report the number of inspections completed. **As part of this legislation schools are also required to have posted in a publicly visible location a copy of the most recent inspection.**

How and When to Report:

The food safety/health inspections are reported via the CNP 2000 web based system at: <https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/CNP/frameManager.asp> On the green navigation bar select "Health Inspections". On the next screen, click on "Health Inspection," click on Program year 2013, click on "select," and complete the report. If you are not responsible for the food safety inspections, please inform the appropriate individual. Questions may be directed to your area consultant or Deb Linderblood, Consultant, at 515-281-5663 or Deb.Linderblood@iowa.gov.